

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprising

a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and

and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion; and

further comprising

a Y-shaped device having a top portion including a first end and a second end, and a base having a third end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the left side of the collar, substantially near the second protrusion of the collar; and

wherein the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the right side of the collar, substantially near the fourth protrusion of the collar;

wherein the top portion of the Y-shaped device is comprised of first and second members, and the base of the Y-shaped device is comprised of third and fourth members; and

wherein the first member is fixed to the third member so that the first member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the third member;

wherein the second member is fixed to the fourth member so that the second member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the fourth member;

and wherein the third and fourth members are substantially parallel to one another.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising

a hanger loop fixed to the left top side and to the right top side of the collar substantially at the location where the left top side is fixed to the right top side.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprising

a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so

that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion; and

The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar has a bottom side having an opening leading to a channel, wherein the channel is bordered by an extension;

and wherein a tie can be inserted into the channel and hung from the extension.

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for use in knotting a necktie comprising

a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right

indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and
and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third protrusion; and
further comprising a Y-shaped device having a top portion including a first end and a
second end, and a base having a third end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the left side of
the collar, substantially near the second protrusion of the collar;

wherein the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the right
side of the collar, substantially near the fourth protrusion of the collar; and

The apparatus of claim 3

wherein the collar has a bottom side;

wherein the collar is substantially solid;

wherein the collar has a slot near its bottom side;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a first end of a
connecting member and the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a
second end of the connecting member;

and wherein the connecting member is inserted into the slot of the collar and fixed to the
collar to fix the Y-shaped device to the collar.

7. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar is substantially a wire frame.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein

the collar is substantially solid.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 1 wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is connected to the base of the Y-shaped device substantially at a knot tie point;

and wherein the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the center of the right side of the collar, the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device, and the distance from the center of the right side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device are approximately equal.

10. (previously presented) A method comprising

providing a collar comprised of:

a left top side fixed to a right top side;

a left side fixed to the left top side, wherein the left side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to left top side;

a right side fixed to the right top side, wherein the right side is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the right top side;

wherein the left side lies between a first protrusion and a second protrusion, so that the left side in combination with the first and the second protrusions form a left indentation;

wherein the right side lies between a third protrusion and a fourth protrusion, so that the right side in combination with the third and fourth protrusions forms a right indentation;

wherein the left side is fixed to the left top side through the first protrusion; and

and wherein the right side is fixed to the right top side through the third

protrusion;

and further comprising tying a neck tie by placing at least a first part of the neck tie in the left indentation and simultaneously placing at least a second part of the neck tie in the right indentation.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising

providing a hanger loop fixed to the left top side and to the right top side of the collar substantially at the location where the left top side is fixed to the right top side.

12 (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising

providing a Y-shaped device having a top portion including a first end and a second end, and a base having a third end;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the left side of the collar, substantially near the second protrusion of the collar; and

wherein the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to the right side of the collar, substantially near the fourth protrusion of the collar.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is comprised of first and second members,

and the base of the Y-shaped device is comprised of third and fourth members; and

wherein the first member is fixed to the third member so that the first member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect to the third member;

wherein the second member is fixed to the fourth member so that the second member is at an angle of greater than ninety degrees with respect fourth member;

and wherein the third and fourth members are substantially parallel to one another.

14 (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further wherein

the collar has a bottom side having an opening leading to a channel, wherein the channel is bordered by an extension;

and wherein a tie can be inserted into the channel and hung from the extension.

15 (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further wherein

the collar has a bottom side;

wherein the collar is substantially solid;

wherein the collar has a slot near its bottom side;

wherein the first end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a first end of a connecting member and the second end of the top portion of the Y-shaped device is fixed to a second end of the connecting member;

and further comprising inserting the connecting member into the slot of the collar and fixing the connecting member to the collar to fix the Y-shaped device to the collar.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein

the collar is substantially a wire frame.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein

the collar is substantially solid.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 wherein

the top portion of the Y-shaped device is connected to the base of the Y-shaped device substantially at a knot tie point;

and wherein the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the center of the right side of the collar, the distance from the center of the left side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device, and the distance from the center of the right side of the collar to the knot tie point of the Y-shaped device are approximately equal.

19. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 4 1 wherein

the first, second, third, and fourth members are elongated members;
the first and second members are substantially equal in length; and
the third and fourth members are substantially equal in length.

20. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ method of claim 13 wherein

the first, second, third, and fourth members are elongated members;
the first and second members are substantially equal in length; and
the third and fourth members are substantially equal in length.